

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04872 121431Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-10 /076 W

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R 112211Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1685

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 4872

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, HO

SUBJECT: LAND INVASIONS RESULT IN REPORTED KILLINGS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4794

BEGIN SUMMARY: A NUMBER OF LAND INVASIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST TEN DAYS AS A RESULT OF CAMPESINO PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEED LAND DISTRIBUTION UNDER THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW. UNCONFIRMED AND CONFLICTING MEDIA STORIES STATE THAT 15-20 CAMPESINOS WERE KILLED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LEMPIRA ON NOVEMBER 7 IN AN ATTACK ORGANIZED BY A LOCAL LANDOWNER. THE CAMPESINO LEADERSHIP MET WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR ON NOVEMBER 9 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION; ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MELGAR PROMISED TO FORM A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER. END SUMMARY.

1. ANACH, UNC AND FECORAH, THE THREE LARGEST HONDURAN CAMPESINO ORGANIZATIONS, ORGANIZED THEMSELVES INTO A NATIONAL FRONT OF UNITED CAMPESINOS (FNUC) TO PRESSURE THE

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 04872 121431Z

GOVERNMENT INTO DISTRIBUTING LAND MORE RAPIDLY. AS A

RESULT OF THE CONFRONTATION A SERIES OF LAND INVASIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS. THE FNUC LEADERSHIP CLAIMS THAT THE INVASIONS ARE SPONTANEOUS EXPRESSIONS OF GENERAL CAMPESINO UNREST. THE CATTLEMEN AND LANDOWNERS HAVE REPEATEDLY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO THE INVASIONS.

2. CONFLICTING MEDIA STORIES REPORT THAT 13 TO 20 CAMPESINOS WERE KILLED IN FIGHTING THAT TOOK PLACE ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 7 IN THE AREA OF LA UNION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LEMPIRA. SOME STORIES STATE THAT A LOCAL LANDOWNER ORGANIZED AN ARMED GROUP TO ATTACK CAMPESINOS WHO HAD INVADDED HIS LAND.

3. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FNUC MET WITH CHIDF OF STATE MELGAR ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 9. IN COMMENTS TO REPORTERS, THEY SAID THAT THE CHIDF OF STATE HAD PROMISED TO SET UP A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION AND REPORT TO HIM CONCERNING THE FACTS IN THE CASE.

4. COMMENT: THE REPORTED KILLINGS COULD EASILY MAKE THE PRESENT UNSETTLED SITUATION MORE DIFFICULT. THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH THE LAND INVASIONS ON A LOW KEY BASIS AND WITHOUT UNDUE REPRESSION. ARMY AND POLICE FORCES HAVE BEEN REMOVING INVADING CAMPESINOS IN MANY AREAS, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO USE ALL POSSIBLE CAUTION TO AVOID THE USE OF FORCE. IF THE REPORTS ABOUT A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF CAMPESINO DEATHS IS TRUE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH THE NEED TO CARRY OUT ANOTHER INVESTIGATION AS THEY DID LAST JUNE WHEN AN UNC HUNGER MARCH LED TO A NUMBER OF KILLINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OLANCHO. ANOTHER SUCH EPISODE WOULD ADD TO EXISTING TENSIONS AND MAKE THE TASK OF THE GOVERNMENT IN DEALING WITH AGRARIAN UNREST THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. AT THIS POINT THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT TROOPS OR POLICE WERE INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAND REFORMS, AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, DEATHS, CIVIL DISORDERS, REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 TEGUCIGALPA 4794  
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**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 SEP 2003  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAND INVASIONS RESULT IN REPORTED KILLINGS  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, HO, UNC, ANANCH, FECORAH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006